

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 12-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 13-14 have been amended. In view of the following, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If, after considering this response, the Examiner does not agree that all of the claims are allowable, then the Examiner is requested to schedule a teleconference with the Applicant's attorney to further the prosecution of the application.

Rejection of claims 1-3, 6-8, 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koch (US 6,153,946) in view of Coglitore (US 2004/0228087) in view of Slade (US 5,861,684)

Claims 1 and 13

Claim 1, as amended, recites a plurality of power sources, each power source having a capacity less than each load; and an interconnect arrangement connecting each load to each of the sources in parallel.

For example, referring, e.g., to paragraphs 33-34 and 38 and FIGS. 4-5 and 9 of the present application, each load is connected to each of a plurality of power sources in parallel, where each power source has a capacity less than each load. Because each load is connected to each power source in parallel, if any one source fails, each load remains fully powered. As is well-known in the art, lower-capacity power sources are more efficient and cheaper to manufacture than higher-capacity power sources. Furthermore, lower-capacity power sources are significantly smaller than higher-capacity power sources, so that even having an additional lower-capacity power source can take up less space than having only higher-capacity power sources. As a result, power distribution systems utilizing lower-capacity power sources can be smaller, more efficient, and cheaper to manufacture than power distribution systems utilizing higher-capacity power sources.

Koch, on the other hand, does not teach a plurality of power sources, each power source having a capacity less than each load; and an interconnect arrangement connecting each load to each of the sources in parallel. Instead, Koch teaches devices 14, 16, 18 (FIG. 1) each having both a device circuit and a power supply. Because each device 14, 16, 18 is a separate device (and because

redundant power supply 12 is only redundant), by definition each power supply 22, 24, 26 must have a capacity at least equal to each corresponding device circuit 28, 30, 32 (col. 5, lines 10-14). Similarly, Koch teaches devices 88, 90, 92 (FIG. 3) each having both a device circuit and a power supply. Because each device 88, 90, 92 is a separate device (and because there is no redundant power supply), by definition each power supply must have a capacity greater than each corresponding device circuit (col. 7, line 49 – col. 8, line 15). Furthermore, the devices 14, 16, 18, 88, 90, 92 of Koch are connected in series, not in parallel (FIGS. 1 and 3). This series connection is emphasized in the Abstract of Koch, which clearly states that “if the power supply of any device fails, that device borrows power from the device immediately upstream in the redundant power segment.” However, all this has nothing to do with power distribution systems utilizing lower-capacity power sources and connecting each load to each source in parallel. In fact, after reviewing Koch in its entirety, the Applicant’s attorney is unable to find any mention of each power source having a capacity less than each load, and each load being connected to each source in parallel.

Similarly, Coglitore does not teach a plurality of power sources, each power source having a capacity less than each load; and an interconnect arrangement connecting each load to each of the sources in parallel. Instead, Coglitore teaches a computer rack 2 having a power supply unit 4 installed in the top shelf of the rack to improve heat dissipation. However, this has nothing to do with power distribution systems utilizing lower-capacity power sources and connecting each load to each source in parallel. In fact, after reviewing Coglitore in its entirety, the Applicant’s attorney is unable to find any mention of each power source having a capacity less than each load, and each load being connected to each source in parallel.

Similarly, Slade does not teach an interconnect arrangement connecting each load to each of the sources in parallel. Instead, Slade teaches a configuration where the loads 4 draw power from “either rail A or rail B” at any given time, but not from both simultaneously (FIGS. 1-2; col. 3 line 4 – col. 4 line 2). Because bulk power supplies A and B are only connected to rail A, and batteries C and D are only connected to rail B (and bulk power supplies C and D and batteries A and B are connected to either rail A or rail B but not both), the loads 4 are not simultaneously connected to every source in parallel.

Therefore, the combination of Koch, Coglitore and Slade does not satisfy all of the limitations of claim 1.

Claims 2-3, 6-8, 12 and 15-17

Claims 2-3, 6-8, 12 and 15-17 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from independent claim 1.

Claim 14

Claim 14, as amended, is patentable for reasons similar to those recited above in support of the patentability of claims 1 and 13.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, claims 1-3, 6-8, 12-17 are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

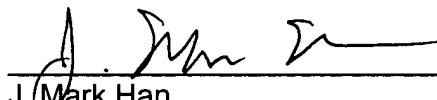
In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

If, after considering this response, the Examiner does not agree that all of the claims are allowable, then it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicant's attorney at (425) 455-5575.

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Respectfully submitted,

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